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Mrs. Dwyer on Way Home After 9 Months in Iran Jail

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

Cynthia B. Dwyer, who spent more than nine months in a Teheran jail on espionage charges, was in Dubai yesterday on her way home to Amherst, N.Y.

Her husband, John F. Dwyer, said she was expected to go to Europe from the Persian Gulf sheikdom and to arrive in New York this afternoon.

Professor Dwyer, chairman of the English Department at Buffalo State College, said that he spoke with his wife for about five minutes while she was in Dubai and that "she seems wonderful." He said they did not discuss her months in jail or the espionage charges. "That was the least of our concerns," he said.

Mrs. Dwyer, a 49-year-old part-time book editor who went to Iran last April saying she was a freelance journalist, was convicted of several charges by an Iranian court last week, including trying to establish radio contact between members of the Iranian opposition and the United States.

Ordered to Leave Iran

Mrs. Dwyer, who denied the charges, was sentenced to nine months in prison, a few days less than she had already served, and was ordered to leave the country immediately.

According to an article in the Iranian press, the prosecution presented testimony indicating that Mrs. Dwyer was tricked into joining a fictitious plot to free the American hostages. United States officials have insisted that Mrs. Dwyer has no connection with American intelligence activities.

Friends and relatives of Mrs. Dwyer said that after meeting some Iranian students in Buffalo and becoming sympathetic to the Iranian revolution, she went to Iran on a "budget flight" with \$500 she had borrowed from her mother.

Professor Dwyer said he his wife had become "obsessed with the plight of the hostages."

"She felt the story wasn't getting told," he said, "about what people felt away from the embassy and the television cameras."

An acquaintance who spoke with Mrs. Dwyer as she was preparing to leave for

Iran described her as "a female Don Quixote, a dreamer."

Professor Dwyer said that while he regarded his wife as "a fine writer and an excellent editor," she had published only a few articles, mainly in *The Humanist*, a small magazine published by the American Humanist Association in Amherst, N.Y.

Richard Max McCarthy, the Washington bureau chief of *The Buffalo Evening News*, who met Mrs. Dwyer before she left for Iran and spoke with her by telephone while she was in Teheran, said she had obtained press credentials from the sheriff in Erie County, which encompasses Buffalo.

Professor Dwyer said his wife left without commitments from any newspapers or magazines to publish her work. "She did not have articles she had promised to somebody or somebody had asked her for," he said.

Seen in Lounge of Hotel

Foreign correspondents in Iran have said that Mrs. Dwyer was occasionally seen in a coffee lounge of the Inter-Continental Hotel in Teheran. One of them said she was often "loudly telling Iranians that other American reporters didn't understand the revolution."

She told other correspondents that she planned to write travel articles about Teheran.

Mr. McCarthy, who was a Congressman from suburban Buffalo from 1965 to 1971 and served in Teheran as a press officer for Ambassador Richard M. Helms in 1975 and 1976, said that at Professor Dwyer's request he spoke with Mrs. Dwyer three times after she arrived in Teheran in mid-April.

"He was worried about her, and asked, would I telephone her and ask her to get out?" Mr. McCarthy said.

Mr. McCarthy said Mrs. Dwyer told him she had been befriended by some "very nice, clean-cut young men," and that they had gotten her a free room at the Hilton Hotel. Three years ago, Mr. McCarthy said, the daily room rate at the Hilton was \$100.

"Probably Tapping Her Phone"

"I told her that was incredible," he said. "It sounded fishy. I figured they had a room nearby and were probably tapping her phone, which, it turned out, they were."

In another conversation, Mr. McCarthy said, Mrs. Dwyer told him that her new friends were planning to rescue five American hostages who had been taken to a city in northeastern Iran after the abortive United States rescue mission.

"She said they wanted to make radio contact with the U.S.S. *Nimitz* in the Arabian Sea," Mr. McCarthy said, "and she wanted me to get the radio call signals."

"I said, 'Cynthia, this sounds really crazy.' I said, 'This isn't my job. I'm a newspaperman, not a messenger.'"

One American correspondent said Mrs. Dwyer told him of the plan and asked if he would serve as a "go-between to set up links with the American Government."

He said he refused on the ground that what she was proposing went far beyond the role of a reporter and endangered the credibility of all reporters in Iran, where American journalists were constantly being accused of spying.